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Claims 1, 4, 12, 13, and 16-24 are pending. As discussed during Applicants' April 20, 2005 interview with Examiner Kaushal, and further to Applicants' February 25, 2005 reply to the Office Action mailed on August 25, 2004, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 17.

In particular, step (a) of claim 1 now recites "providing a *C. elegans* or isolated *C. elegans* cell expressing a gene that encodes a mammalian polypeptide having at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO:54." The amendments to claim 1 find support, for example, at page 26, line 20, to page 27, line 9, at page 89, lines 4-18, and at page 90, lines 15-25, of the specification. In view of the amendments to claim 1, claims 4, 12, and 16 have been canceled.

In addition, claim 17 as amended requires the gene to hybridize under highly stringent conditions to the complement of a nucleic acid sequence encoding the sequence of SEQ ID NO:57 (human FKHR) or SEQ ID NO:102 (human AFX). The amendments to claim 17 find support, for example, at page 89, lines 4-18, and at page 90, lines 15-25, of the specification, and in Figure 21A. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

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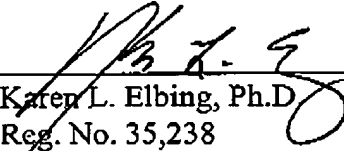
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and this action is hereby respectfully requested.

If there are any charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

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